

Remarks

Applicants and the undersigned would like to thank the Examiner for his efforts in the examination of this application. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

I. Rejection of Claims 1, 2, 9-11, and 17-23 under 35 USC 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 2, 9-11, and 17-23 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Williams et al. (US 6,394,999) in view of Knopp et al. (US 5,865,832).

Independent Claims 1, 11, 19, and 21-23 have been amended to more particularly point out that which Applicants regard as their invention. In particular, the subject matter of allowable Claim 4 has been incorporated into each of these independent claims, wherein the first and the second image maps are filtered to reduce noise prior to further processing the filtered image maps to produce edge images.

As Claim 4 has been deemed patentable over the cited art, independent Claims 1, 11, 19, and 21-23 are now believed patentable, as well as Claims 2, 9, 10, and 17-20 dependent therefrom.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated Claims 3-8 and 12-16 to be allowable over the cited art, which is acknowledged with appreciation by Applicants.

III. Additional Claim Amendments

Claims 4 and 12 have been canceled, as the elements therein have been incorporated into the respective independent claims from which they depend.

Claims 5, 8, and 13 have been amended to change dependency from now-canceled Claims 4 and 12 to independent Claims 1 and 11.

IV. New Claims 24-30

New Claims 24-30 have been added to more particularly point out that which Applicants regard as their invention.

In particular, Claim 24 includes the recitations of Claims 1 and 3 as originally filed; Claims 25-29, those of Claims 4-8, respectively.

As Claim 3 was considered allowable, it is believed that new Claims 24-30 are also allowable over the cited art.

Conclusions

Applicants respectfully submit that the above amendments place this application in a condition for allowance, and passage to issue is respectfully solicited. The Applicants and the undersigned would like to again thank the Examiner for his efforts in the examination of this application and for reconsideration of the claims as amended in light of the arguments presented. If the further prosecution of the application can be facilitated

through telephone interview between the Examiner and the undersigned, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the Examiner's convenience.

Respectfully submitted,



Jacqueline E. Hartt, Ph.D.

Reg. No. 37,845

ALLEN, DYER, DOPPELT, MILBRATH & GILCHRIST, P.A.

255 South Orange Avenue, Suite 1401

P.O. Box 3791

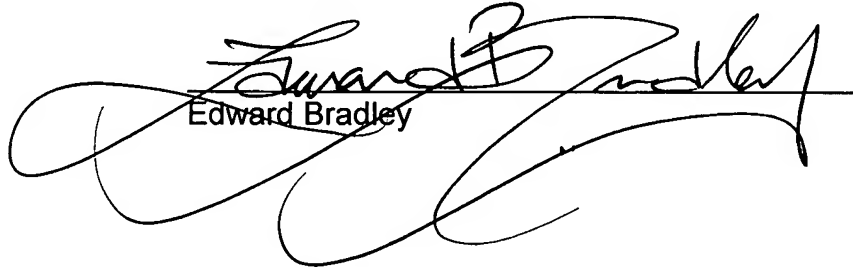
Orlando, Florida 32802

(407) 841-2330

Agent for Applicant

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that the foregoing is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, this 5th day of October, 2004.



Edward Bradley